

2020 Annual Report



Lexington Police
Department

2020

FAST FACTS

18 sworn police officers

3 civilian personnel

1,366 school walk-throughs

5,784 calls for service

Accredited agency since 1998

111,511 miles patrolled

434 training hours completed

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Acknowledgements

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MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM CHIEF



It is with great pride that I have this opportunity to submit the 2020 Annual Report for the Lexington Police Department. To coincide with our efforts to be as accessible and transparent as possible, I believe the open sharing of information allows us to demonstrate our desire and willingness to work with the public. In doing so, it will assure the best possible law enforcement services are provided to our greatest asset, the community we serve. During the 2020 year, we faced considerable obstacles that were both unforeseen and challenging. The unexpected departure of the Chief and Deputy Chief placed considerable strains on our remaining staff to fill in the voids to assure that our services to those in need did not falter. The COVID 19

pandemic also forced us into unexplored territory. With careful analysis and stringent safety protocols, all staff has risen to the challenge and continues to foster a safe and accessible environment to uninterrupted police services. This nation has also experienced political, societal and ethical challenges seldom faced before. These questions have resulted in long and meaningful discussion and analysis of governmental and personal practices and beliefs. While other communities struggle with the questions of racial equality, political discord and societal unrest, I am proud that we continue on a daily basis to overcome these challenges and are able to provide the highest level of professionalism and service within our community policing efforts.

Through joint efforts with all of our community partners, citizen input, and our proactive approach to law enforcement, Lexington has once again proven itself to be one of the safest cities in the Commonwealth. This is not an accomplishment that we take lightly. The staff of the Lexington Police Department realize this is a never ending challenge and that it is not something we can accomplish without the support of our community. The need to prove ourselves every day is a challenge that we accept and look forward to with great resolve. Contained within this report is a synopsis of the work the staff of the Lexington Police Department provided to the community over the past year. All of us here at the Lexington Police Department are grateful for the continued support of our community and its political leadership. We remain vigilant in the constant analysis of our tactics and approach to problems within the community. The input we receive from our community continues to be a driving factor in how we approach our current duties, while allowing us to look to the future and the opportunity to grow and provide the best law enforcement services that our citizens deserve.

Interim Chief of Police - Michael R. Frost

MISSION STATEMENT AND ANNUAL GOALS

We, the members of the Lexington Police Department, exist to serve all people within our jurisdiction with respect, fairness, and compassion.

We are committed to the preservation of peace and the safeguarding of constitutional guarantees. With community service as our foundation, we are driven by goals to enhance the quality of life and fostering a sense of public trust by holding ourselves to the highest standards of performance and ethics.

The Lexington Police Department is dedicated to providing a quality work environment and the development of its members through effective training and leadership.

Leadership, Pride, Duty; the foundation of our agency.



Increased Collaboration: Maintaining liaison with neighboring agencies and localities is critical to providing effective law enforcement services to our community. The department desires to increase collaboration and communication with its surrounding law enforcement agencies by participating in trainings together and supporting one another in multi-jurisdictional efforts.

Crime Prevention: The department will continue to educate the public on the importance of crime prevention through the city's website, social media platform, and various other community forums; while also implementing forward-thinking policing strategies and information gained from utilizing crime analysis programs. Options will also be explored on the locality becoming a Certified Crime Prevention Community, to show our dedication to professionalism and community safety.

Community Service: Provide police services consistent with the vision and values of our community based policing organization, and serve as ambassadors of the city of Lexington with an increased presence of employees at city meetings and functions. Place an emphasis on service provided to our community through the establishment of observable, measurable, targeted, and specific performance objectives for each employee of the department.

Traffic Issues: Provide for a structured approach in dealing with the traffic/parking related issues experienced in the city by utilizing engineering, education, and enforcement strategies in dealing with these problems. Targeted enforcement in school zones, residential areas and primary thoroughfares will be the priority of patrol. Continue traffic initiatives related to aggressive driving, seatbelt violations, red light campaigns and DUI enforcement.

Livability Issues: Focusing on those issues which impact the livability of the citizens we serve will be a high priority. This includes noise complaints, animal complaints, drug enforcement, and enforceable code violations.

Personnel Development: Ensure the growth and motivation of employees, enhance in-house training and develop formal educational opportunities. Develop employees' knowledge, skills, and abilities to better prepare them for other assignments, advancements or promotion.

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW AND ORGANIZATION

Office of the Chief of Police

The Lexington Police Department is commanded by the Chief of Police. During calendar year 2020, the Lexington Police Department was authorized 18 sworn police officers and 3 civilian personnel to provide law enforcement services to the City of Lexington, Virginia.

The Deputy Chief is the second highest rank in the police department and reports directly to the Chief of Police. The Deputy Chief is assigned as the commanding officer of major organizational components such as Professional Standards, Detective Division, Records and the Internal Affairs Group. The Deputy Chief acts as a chief of staff and keeps the Chief of Police informed about all operational activities.

Criminal Investigations Division

The Criminal Investigations Detective is assigned to the investigations of serious felony and misdemeanor offenses that occur in the city. The Detective is typically assigned to follow-up on incidents initially reported to patrol officers; detectives have the training and the time necessary to more thoroughly investigate reported criminal incidents in order to identify suspects, effect arrests, and successfully prosecute cases.

The Narcotics Detective is assigned primarily to major drug investigations and intelligence gathering efforts on individuals and groups involved in the distribution and trafficking of illicit narcotics in Lexington and Rockbridge County.

Patrol Division

The Lieutenant serves as the Commander of the Patrol Division and also oversees the Animal Control and Parking Enforcement Unit.

A Sergeant/First Sergeant is assigned to command each of the four patrol shifts. The Sergeant/First Sergeant is responsible for the leadership of the shift to ensure that goals and objectives are accomplished. Each Sergeant/First Sergeant is assigned a Corporal and an Officer.

Special Enforcement Unit

The Lexington Police Department is responsible for Parking Enforcement and Animal Control Services. Special Enforcement Officers are equipped and trained to enforce the city parking and animal ordinances. There are many domestic animal owners residing in our city.

It is the goal of the police department's Special Enforcement Unit to ensure that these animals are protected from abuse, confined to the owner's property, and to protect our citizens from animal attacks and destruction of their property.

MEET OUR STAFF

Deputy Chief • Captain Mark E. Riley



Captain Riley attended Dabney S. Lancaster and holds an Associate's Degree with a major in the Administration of Justice with academic honors. He has been employed with the Lexington Police Department since 1993.

He has been assigned to the State Police Regional Drug Task Force and the Criminal Investigations Division as a Detective Sergeant. Captain Riley has risen through the ranks and was promoted to Captain in 2015. He most recently served as the department's Interim Chief from March 2020 to October 2020.

Patrol Commander • Lieutenant Michael R. Frost



Lieutenant Frost attended Radford University graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. He has served in the United States Marine Corps as an infantry rifleman and fleet anti-terrorism security force member in active and reserve status.

Lieutenant Frost began his career in law enforcement career with the Roanoke County Police Department in 1997. In 2004, he was hired by the Lexington Police Department and has since acted as a Patrol Shift Supervisor, Vehicle Fleet Manager, Quartermaster, Honor Guard Commander, Driver Instructor and Administrator of the Field Training Program. He currently serves as the department's Interim Chief.

A - SHIFT



1st Sergeant M. Scott Fitzgerald
Serving Since 2004



Corporal Matthew D. Lombardi
Serving Since 2014



Officer Gregory W. Gardner
Serving Since 2008

B - SHIFT



Sergeant Michael E. Huffman
Serving Since 1994



Corporal Jessica A. Burks
Serving Since 2011



Officer J. Scotty Panebianco
Serving Since 2018

C - SHIFT



Sergeant Ronald D. Condry
Serving Since 2006



Corporal Aaron W. Britton
Serving Since 2014



Officer Claude O. Hartbarger
Serving Since 2017

D - SHIFT



Sergeant Cherie H. Padgett
Serving Since 2005



Corporal T. Keith Mohler
Serving Since 2013



Officer Ricardo L. Haston
Serving Since 2016

SUPPORT SERVICES



Officer Loran S. Dreelin
Serving Since 2017



Detective Nathan B. Kesterson
Serving Since 2004



Detective Robert E. Smith
Serving Since 2009



Elizabeth S. Knudson
Serving Since 2013



Vicki H. Pickle
Serving Since 2014



Lori N. Condry
Serving Since 2015

LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES & STATISTICS

CRIME ANALYSIS

The overall numbers for 2020 showed an increase in both misdemeanor and felony arrests. Incidents involving the following offenses showed a decrease in numbers: drunk in public, DUI, speeding, parking offenses, and possession of marijuana.

Calls for service to law enforcement agencies generally include calls to 911 for emergency assistance and may also include calls to non-emergency numbers. Calls for service data is typically maintained in law enforcement computer-aided dispatch systems. Total calls for service decreased from 5,784 in 2019 to 4,381 in 2020.

CRIME TYPE	2017	2018	2019	2020
MISDEMEANOR ARRESTS	174	143	83	143
FELONY ARRESTS	36	62	23	38
DRUNK IN PUBLIC	47	23	20	19
DUI	21	21	18	8
SPEEDING	314	306	254	248
PARKING OFFENSE	391	458	1287	540
MARIJUANA POSSESSION	15	35	17	13

NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

On May 6, 2020, Washington & Lee University received an invoice from what appeared to be a vendor that the university used before for the amount of \$51,000. After the amount was paid by the university in full, it was discovered that the funds were going to a different routing and account number than what had previously been used by the trusted vendor. A report for computer fraud was made and an investigation was conducted. After filing a subpoena for the bank records of the fraudulent fund transfer, the name on the bank account was discovered.

Several follow-up investigations were conducted to make contact with the individual responsible for sending the fraudulent invoice to Washington & Lee University. The individual was eventually located in Alpine, California. A criminal charge for receipt of stolen property is in progress and the investigation is currently ongoing at this time.

The Lexington Police Department received a complaint from the Department of Social Services on August 4, 2020 in reference to a possible case of sexual abuse of a child.

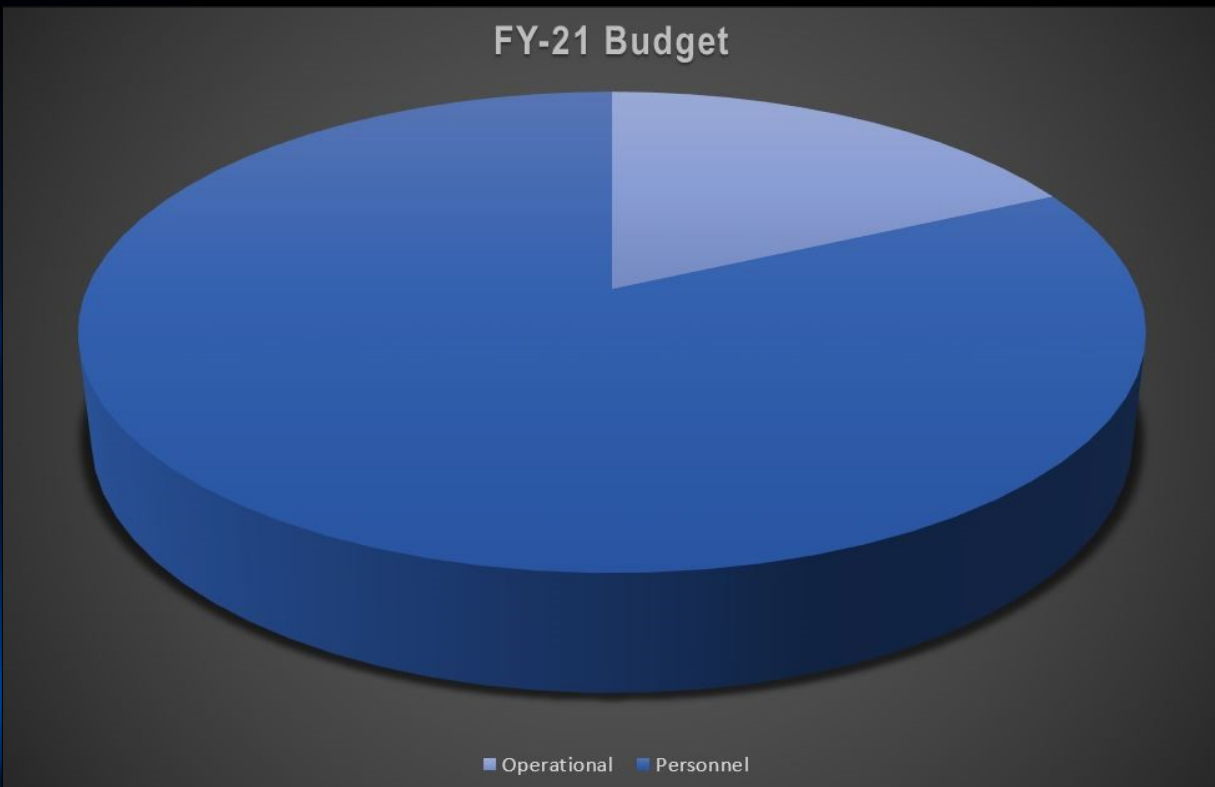
After a thorough investigation, it was discovered that two suspects were responsible for the multiple offenses. The first suspect, Howard Mitchell Davis II (05/08/1981) was subsequently charged with two counts of code section § 18.2-371. A second suspect, William Lawrence Berry II (07/27/1981) was also charged with one count of code section § 18.2-371. Both suspects were directly responsible for contributing to the delinquency of a minor and were arrested on these charges.



BUDGET INFORMATION

The Lexington Police Department budget is one component of the budget for the City of Lexington and is based on the City's fiscal year from July 1 through June 30.

The total police department budget for FY-21 was \$1,902,615. Of this amount, \$1,560,832 was committed to personnel costs for salaries and benefits, leaving \$341,783 for operational costs.



OPERATIONAL

FY-18	FY-19	FY-20	FY-21
\$340,840	\$339,915	\$386,818	\$341,783

PERSONNEL

FY-18	FY-19	FY-20	FY-21
\$1,456,800	\$1,540,843	\$1,540,843	\$1,560,832

AGENCY ACTIVITIES



On March 20, 2020, the Lexington Police Department closed its building to the public in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Essential staff remained in their offices and continued to conduct business by phone, internet or mail while observing social distancing practices. The Lexington Police Department, in particular, discontinued daily services for obtaining noise permits, parking permits, and fingerprinting.

All city offices, including the Lexington Police Department, reopened for public functions on July 6, 2020. Social distancing practices were still in place and visitors to the department were required to wear a face covering prior to entry into the building.

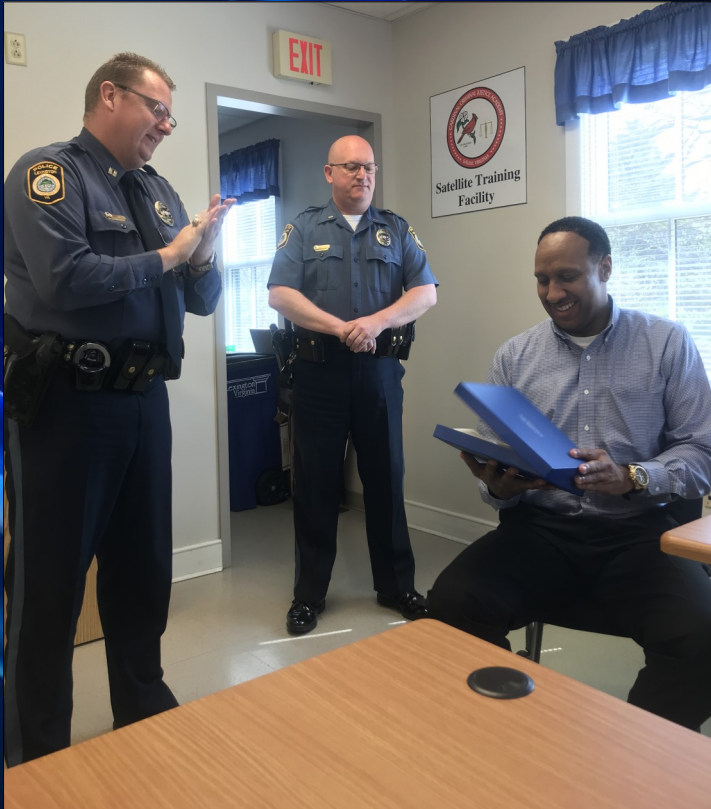
Along with the closure of the building and eventual reopening, the police department installed some new features including automatic doors, an additional doorway separating the lobby from the administration area, and automatic hand soap dispensers and sinks. These features were installed in an effort to reduce a person's contact with commonly used surfaces as much as possible.

COVID-19 INFORMATION VIDEO



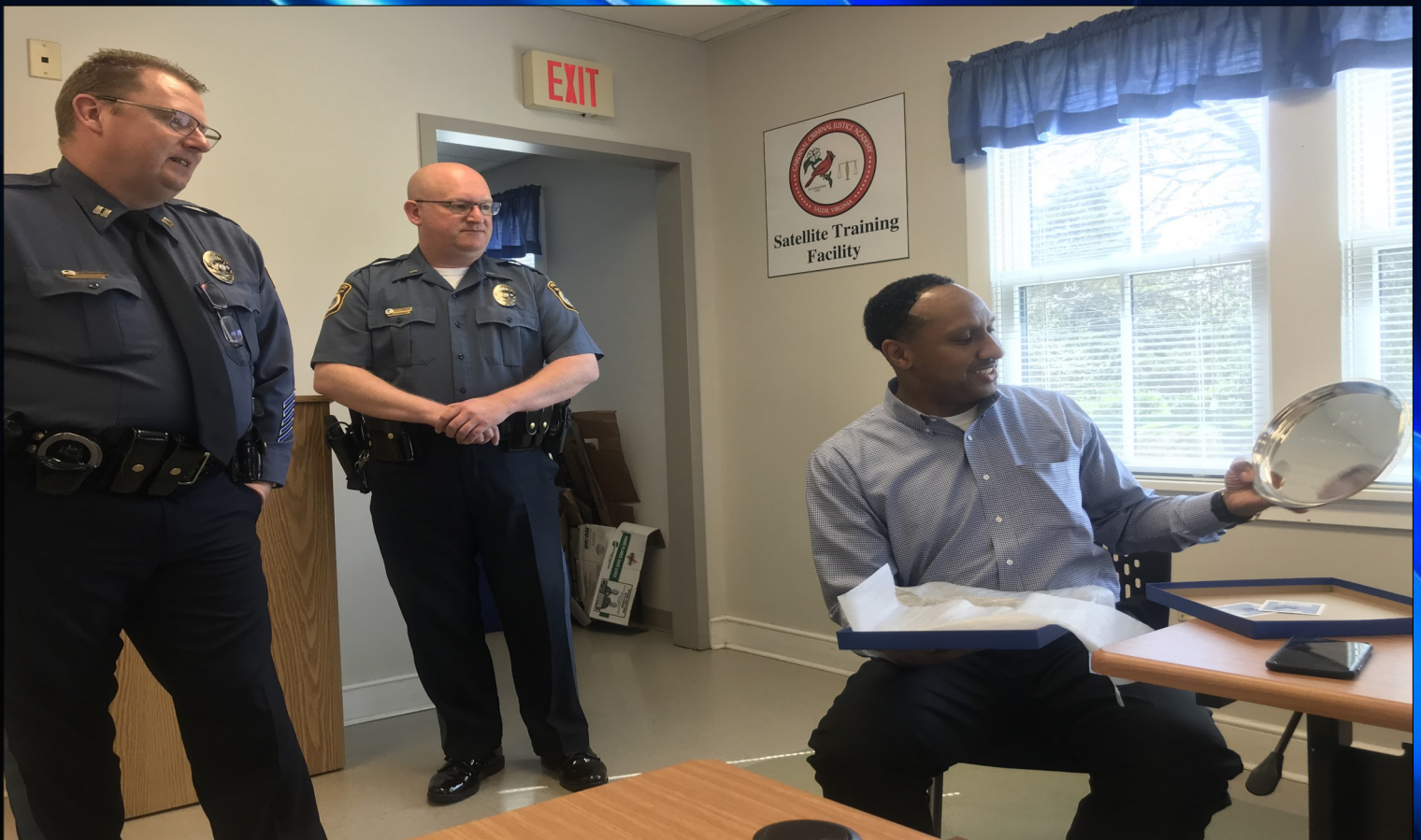
On April 3, 2020, personnel from the Lexington Police Department filmed a COVID-19 informational video and shared the video to its Facebook page. In an effort to be both educational and fun, the video was filmed chronicling the exploits of a Tyrannosaurus Rex, with Officer Hartbarger in the costume, who infiltrates the department building, demonstrates proper social distancing guidelines, and finally runs off with a pack of the department's toilet paper before being pursued by Officer Dreelin. The video was well received by the community and received over 5,000 views on Facebook.

CHIEF ROMAN'S DEPARTURE



On March 27, 2020, personnel from the Lexington Police Department celebrated Chief Sam Roman by presenting him with an engraved decorative plaque and hosting a farewell luncheon. Chief Roman had recently accepted a new job opportunity and was leaving Lexington to become the new Chief of Police for the Roanoke Police Department.

Chief Roman had served as the Chief of Police for the Lexington Police Department since October 2017.



EMERGENCY SERVICES DRIVE BY EVENT



On May 1, 2020, the Lexington Police Department partnered with local neighboring law enforcement and emergency services agencies to help lift the spirits of residents at Heritage Hall and the Mayflower, and staff at Carilion Stonewall Jackson Hospital. Signs of encouragement were displayed by participants as a parade of various emergency vehicles drove past each location with lights and sirens activated. Residents and staff gathered outside while socially distancing so that they could watch the parade.



NEW COMMUNITY POLICING TRAILER

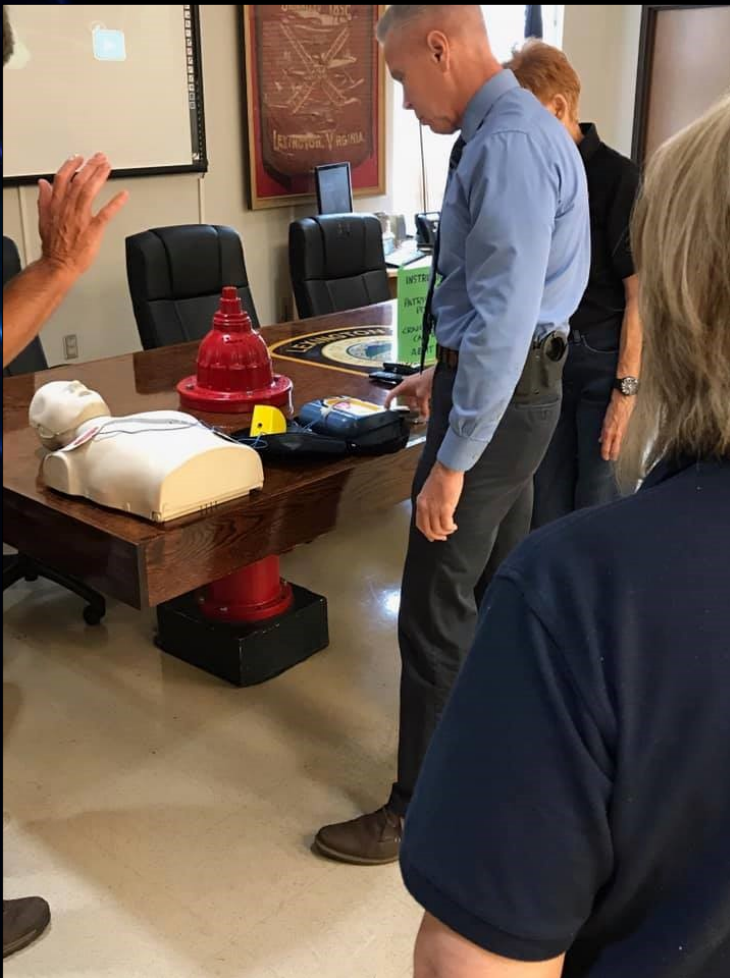
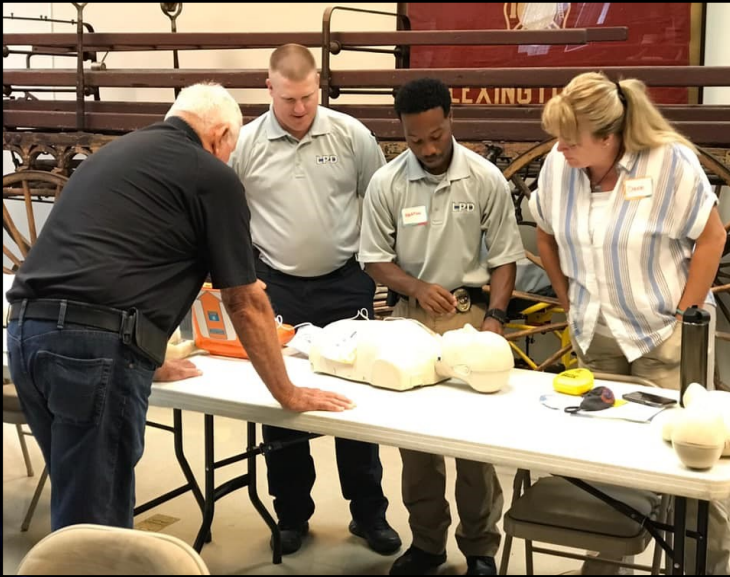


The Lexington Police Department was awarded funds from a grant which focused on community policing. Community policing is the philosophy of developing a positive relationship between law enforcement and the members of the community they serve in an effort to work together and reduce crime.

The funds from the grant were used to purchase a new trailer that will be used at future community events and to also act as storage for crime prevention handouts and other giveaway items.

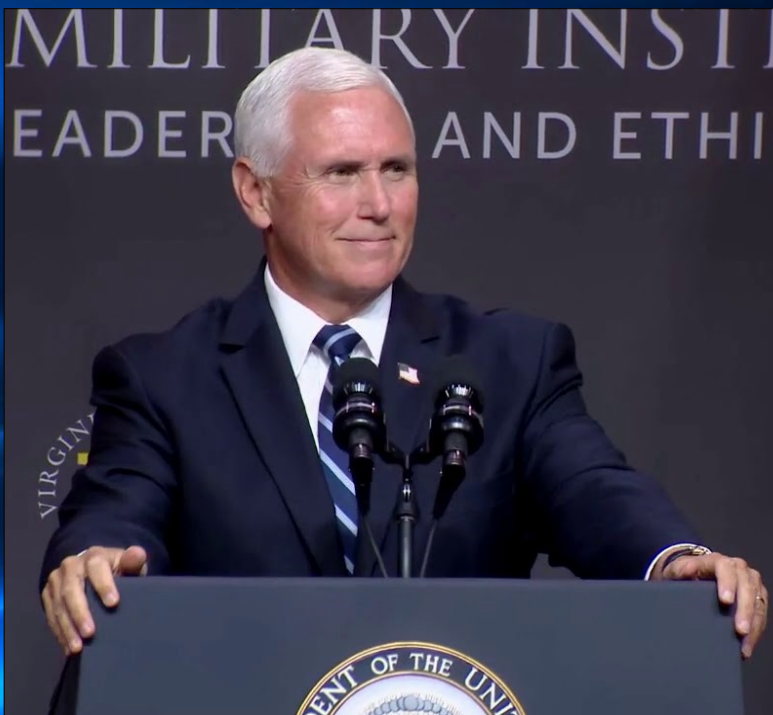


CPR, AED AND NARCAN TRAINING



In August 2020, all members of the Lexington Police Department received training in CPR, proper use of the AED, and Narcan administration. CPR and an AED is used to treat persons who experience sudden cardiac arrest. Narcan is used to treat persons who are suffering from an opioid drug overdose. After successful completion of this training, all sworn officers with the department began carrying Narcan with them in the event that they should need to use it to help someone prior to the arrival of rescue.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE VISITS LEXINGTON



Vice President Mike Pence visited Lexington on September 10, 2020 to deliver remarks to cadets at the Virginia Military Institute in Cameron Hall.

Officers with the Lexington Police Department partnered with local neighboring law enforcement jurisdictions and the Secret Service to assist with security detail during the event at Cameron Hall and throughout his entire visit.

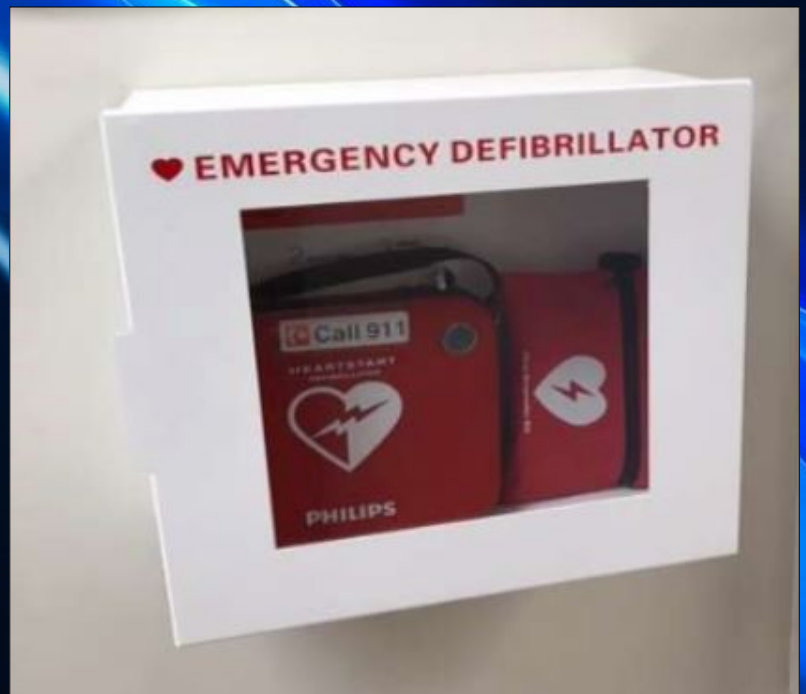
ACQUISITION OF AED UNITS



The Lexington Police Department acquired two new AED units for the department building that were generously donated by the Lexington Police Foundation.

AEDs are used to treat persons who experience sudden cardiac arrest and can mean the difference between life and death in those situations.

These new additions came shortly after all personnel of the Lexington Police Department went through and successfully completed CPR and AED initial training.



DEPUTY CHIEF MARK RILEY RETIRES



On October 23, 2020, Deputy Chief Mark Riley signed “10-42” or ending tour of duty for the final time over the radio after 27 years of dedicated service as a law enforcement officer with the Lexington Police Department.

Deputy Chief Riley was gifted with an American flag and before his departure he decided to park his department assigned vehicle, a silver Ford Explorer, in his usual quirky way.

HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST



The Lexington Police Department held its second annual department Halloween costume contest in October 2020. Four photos of personnel dressed up in costumes was shared to the department's Facebook page and the public had an opportunity to vote for their favorite costumes via an online poll.

After the voting period was over, it was revealed that Officer Hartbarger, dressed up as Superman, was the winner of the contest.

TRICK OR TREAT ON FULLER STREET



Since Halloween had to be done a little differently due to the pandemic, the Lexington Police Department deployed its community policing trailer for the first time during a trick-or-treat drive by event called Trick-or-Treat on Fuller Street on October 31, 2020.

Personnel who dressed up for the department's Halloween costume contest made an appearance during the drive by event and assisted with handing out pre-bagged bundles of candy for the children and mini hand sanitizers for the adults.



NEW OFFICER HIRED



On December 12, 2020, a conditional offer of employment was extended to Michael T. Stogdale. Upon his successful completion of the polygraph, psychological, and medical exams his official start date will be January 18, 2021. Stogdale was previously a deputy for the Augusta County Sheriff's Office and also has experience working in the Rockbridge Regional Jail. After being sworn in as an officer with the Lexington Police Department, Stogdale will begin a 12 week field training program before being released for solo patrol duties.

DEPARTMENT & EMPLOYEE ACHIEVEMENTS



In the year 2020, the City of Lexington was listed as the 3rd safest city in Virginia, according to a survey by Safewise.com, in a compiled list of 70 cities across the state.

The Lexington Police Department was also presented with an award from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles for achieving zero traffic-related fatalities during the 2019 year.



SERGEANT HUFFMAN

Sergeant Huffman has served with the Lexington Police Department since 1994.

On January 17, 2020, he was awarded the Career Service Ribbon with 4 Bronze Stars, commemorating his 25 years of service in law enforcement.



THE CAREER SERVICE RIBBON WITH 4 BRONZE STARS

IS AWARDED TO
Sergeant M.E. Huffman

IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR ACHIEVMENTS AND SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE

LEXINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

January 2020

S. Roman

Colonel S. Roman
Chief of Police



M.E. Riley

Captain M.E. Riley
Deputy Chief of Police



DETECTIVE KESTERSON



Detective Kesterson has served with the Lexington Police Department since 2004.

On January 17, 2020, he was awarded the Investigations Unit Proficiency ribbon for his outstanding performance as the department's Criminal Investigations Detective.


THE INVESTIGATIONS UNIT PROFICIENCY RIBBON

IS AWARDED TO
Detective N.B. Kesterson


IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS AND SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE

LEXINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

January 2020


Colonel S. Roman
Chief of Police




Captain M.E. Riley
Deputy Chief of Police



CORPORAL BRITTON

Corporal Britton has served with the Lexington Police Department since 2014.

On January 17, 2020, he was awarded the Tactical Unit Proficiency ribbon for his dedication and skill as a member of the regional tactical team.



THE TACTICAL UNIT PROFICIENCY RIBBON

IS AWARDED TO
Corporal A.W. Britton

IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR ACHIEVMENTS AND SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE

LEXINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

January 2020



Colonel S. Roman
Chief of Police





Captain M.E. Riley
Deputy Chief of Police



CORPORAL LOMBARDI



Corporal Lombardi has served with the Lexington Police Department since 2014.

On January 17, 2020, he was awarded the Tactical Unit Proficiency ribbon for his dedication and skill as a member of the regional tactical team.

He was also promoted to the position of Corporal on March 23, 2020.

THE TACTICAL UNIT PROFICIENCY RIBBON

IS AWARDED TO
Officer M.D. Lombardi

IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS AND SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE

LEXINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

January 2020

S. Roman

Colonel S. Roman
Chief of Police



M.E. Riley

Captain M.E. Riley
Deputy Chief of Police



OFFICER HARTBARGER

Officer Hartbarger has served with the Lexington Police Department since 2017.

On August 12, 2020, he was awarded the department's firearms proficiency ribbon. This award is given to officers who maintain a firearms proficiency score of 95% or higher for two consecutive years with their department issued sidearm.



THE FIREARMS PROFICIENCY RIBBON

IS AWARDED TO
Officer C.O. Hartbarger

IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS AND SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE

LEXINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

August 2020

M.E. Riley

M.E. Riley
Chief of Police



H. Michael R. Frost

M.R. Frost
Deputy Chief of Police



OFFICER PANEBIANCO



Officer Panebianco has served with the Lexington Police Department since 2018.

On August 12, 2020, he was awarded the department's firearms proficiency ribbon. This award is given to officers who maintain a firearms proficiency score of 95% or higher for two consecutive years with their department issued sidearm.

THE FIREARMS PROFICIENCY RIBBON

IS AWARDED TO
Officer J.S. Panebianco

IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR ACHIEVMENTS AND SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE

LEXINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

August 2020

M.E. Riley

M.E. Riley
Chief of Police



H. Michael R. Frost

M.R. Frost
Deputy Chief of Police





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twitter.com/lexingtonvapd



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